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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Comments on China

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P'ing-Nan (Pingnan, 110 degrees east and 27 degrees north). In this vicinity roads are practically non-existent, villages being connected by paths about a yard wide over which one walked or rode a bicycle. However, before I left a new road was being constructed to connect P'ing-Nan with Kwei-P'ing (Kwei-ping). This road was being made with a base of rock and surfaced with dirt so that it could carry trucks or heavy vehicles. It was only wide enough to permit one car, so in order to pass, one of the vehicles would have to draw to the side of the road. When I left, this road was about one-fourth completed, so I would presume that it is finished.

3. The Kuan Chiang (river) had its worst flood in 50 years in 1949. This inundated a considerable area and resulted in the Communist remaining north of this area until the flood had subsided in the fall when they moved south. The flood wiped out the large air base near Douchuck which had been used by the 14th US Air Force.
4. In this area radios were practically non-existent, except for those in the possession of government officials.

There was no indication that the Communists were interested in extending the radio coverage. In the larger cities like Canton and Wuchow there were a few radios in shops which people could listen to. In 1951 I listened to one in Canton. The program was very monotonous, being nothing but propaganda talks and music. I knew of no private citizens having radios and never heard of anyone being arrested for listening to one. The programs appeared to come from local stations. The radios I saw were of US and European make.

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Telephones were very scarce in our vicinity. They were permitted only for government officials. The only change I noted was that some of the more remote locations of these officials had lines extended to bring them into touch with others.

5. The Communist Commander of our district at first set up his headquarters in Wuchow, but later moved to Jungyun (Jung-Hsien) about 100 miles to the west and south. Here a Communist newspaper was established in 1951, (THE YOUNGYUN PO).
6. [REDACTED]
7. As the war in Korea developed we were visited in our area by a number of recruiters for Chinese volunteers. [REDACTED]
 Being the largest place in this vicinity it was taken over and used by the Communists for large gatherings. A number of boys in our vicinity volunteered for service and left the village. The recruiting was apparently on a voluntary basis as they were not drafted and forced to serve. After about a year these boys returned and the village was ordered to prepare a great welcome for them. [REDACTED] Many speeches were made and the boys treated as heroes returning. Some of these boys that I had known before they left later confided to me that they had not gone to Korea at all, as implied, but had spent their time in the province to our north in camp. They stated that they had excellent food and lived very well while going through a period of training.
8. The people in our vicinity were not prone to follow the Communists with the result that we were able to continue to live here with greatly curtailed activities. The first five young men placed in charge of our neighborhood were all removed before I left, three of them for things they had done [REDACTED] which other Chinese accused them of in the many assemblies held to accuse people.
9. I felt that most of the Chinese were opposed to Communism. The villages generally are not friendly towards one another. This makes them very vulnerable to attack. For if one village tries to resist the Communists they do not receive help from their neighbors so are quickly overcome and slaughtered.
10. A few times the Nationalists sent planes over and they dropped leaflets on the larger cities. These were ineffectual as the larger cities are more easily controlled and the people were afraid to pick up the leaflets. Had they been dropped on villages and country areas I think they would have been read.
11. I believe that one of the main ways that the Communists have made headway is by their appeal to women. They have taken them out of their position of servitude and even give them official positions, in which they seemed to be very efficient.

They are also enmeshing many young people, especially in Hong Kong. Here they have set up many recreation centers and clubs where dances are held with the poorest form of jazz music. A number of small rooms are kept available and the couples urged to use them and enjoy themselves.

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12. Another field in which they are making headway is in the field of education. To illustrate, again using Hong Kong. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Hong Kong University could only take about 100 students a year. The Communists are offering them scholarships behind the Bamboo Curtain if they care to move north.

13. The British officials are doing what they can to combat this and two normal schools are operated in Hong Kong, Gratham College being the chief one. Here the British are trying to train teachers who will combat Communism and also take care of some of the many high school graduates.
14. When the UK recognized Communist China, a great impetus was given the movement in Hong Kong. The Communists have taken quite complete control of the Kowloon district where they operate 16 grade schools and carry on considerable activity with their recreation centers and clubs.
15. On 1 October the Communists have a holiday and on the 10th October the Nationalist hold one. These give occasion to get a fair measure of the success of the two movements as each group on their holiday display flags. I am glad to say that the number of Communists flags before I left were on the decrease and those of the Nationalist were increasing.
16. Before leaving Hong Kong I was able to take a boat trip around the bay as far as Macau and back. When about five miles from the mouth of the Chu, (Pearl) river one of the crew handed me a powerful telescope and said I might be interested in the view towards shore. Through the glass I could see large new wharfs on an island with [REDACTED] ships being unloaded. It appeared that Hong Kong was being by-passed and that ship were running up the bay where they transfer cargo to smaller river boats for delivery to China.
17. At Macau food prices were about 50 per cent of those in Hong Kong and the poor people were being taken care of in a way that might have been impossible in Hong Kong where close to two million refugees have swelled the city of half a million to the bursting point.

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754.22	38:L
754.5	38:L
753.78	IL/C
890.02	IL/C
114.568	IL/C
831.1	98:L/G
831.2	98:L/G
831.1	98:L

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